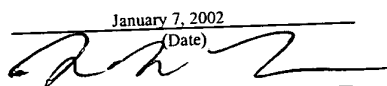


Re  
6/A  
11-27-02

# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Zha, et al.	)	Group Art Unit Unknown
Appl. No.	:	Unknown	)	
Filed	:	Herewith	)	I hereby certify that this correspondence and all
For	:	<b>SCOURING METHOD</b>	)	marked attachments are being deposited with
Examiner	:	Unknown	)	the United States Postal Service as first-class
			)	mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant
			)	Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.
			)	20231, on
			)	
			)	January 7, 2002
			)	(Date)
			)	
			)	Rose M. Thiessen, Reg. No. 40,202

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application on the merits, please amend the application as follows:

### IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following paragraph at page 1, after line 4:

--This application is a continuation of Application No. 09/336,059, filed June 18, 1999, which is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. §371 of prior PCT International Application No. PCT/AU97/00855 which has an International filing date of December 18, 1997, which designated the United States of America, and which was published by the International Bureau in English on July 2, 1998.--

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 21:

### --Summary of the Invention--

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 29: